

**LUMPKIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
*Special Called Meeting*  
**AGENDA**

Lumpkin County Courthouse  
Conference Room  
Dahlonega, Georgia  
March 7, 2007  
4:00 P.M.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gooch

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- Amend 2006 Budget
- Road Acceptance Procedures Policy

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**V. ADJOURN**

Chairman Gooch

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE  
LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

March 7, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gooch called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Lumpkin County Courthouse. Stephen Gooch, John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson, Clarence Stowers and Clarence Grindle were present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Gooch requested that discussion of Construction Manager at Risk be added to the agenda and Commissioner Raber asked that discussion of the board retreat be included, both under New Business.

*Motion:- Commissioner Stowers made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. This was seconded by John Raber and approved by all district commissioners. Motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

Amend 2006 Budget

Chairman Gooch gave background on the budget process and amendments to the budget. At the request of the board department heads and elected officials attended the meeting to explain the overages in their budgets.

*Sheriff*

Sheriff McClure first pointed out that not all that is listed under Public Safety is his department. Sheriff McClure stated that the combined departments under the Sheriff are \$50,000.00 under budget. This involved moving some line items within his budget, for example, as staff moved from one department to another. He pointed out that the Sheriff's Department is one team so moving money from one department to another is not an issue. He also said that the additional mechanic employed by the county has been a source of cost savings for them.

The Sheriff said that he would like a more efficient, simpler way for adjustments to be made rather than having to amend the budget. The Chairman pointed out that the budget process is a necessary evil because the board is responsible for the money.

*Legal*

Finance Director Allison Martin explained that much of this overage was due to meetings and travel and part was a tax related issue involving Birch River. The Chairman commented that legal fees have increased since switching to a board of commissioners since the County Attorney must attend those meetings.

*Human Resources*

The overage here was caused by salaries increase, benefits, vacation "buy back" and contract services. The County Manager said departments had not been budgeting for vacation "buy back" but would start doing so although it is difficult to gauge. He also pointed out that he gave the Human Resources Director a raise when she went to salary. The contract services overage was due to drug testing.

*Superior Court*

These overages were for juvenile and indigent defense outside of the public defender. The Chairman pointed out that there should not be anything but carryover capital cases outside the public defender. The Finance Director will look again at these bills to see if any should have gone to the public defender's office. She also said that Hall County sets an hourly rate for indigent defense.

Court reporter costs were higher than anticipated. This fee is set by the state on a per diem basis.



*Victims Assistance*

This is a pass-through account. It looks like a negative because of the way the auditors handled it.

*Magistrate Court*

Most of this overage is Gerald Edmondson's salary and the new computer system. Commissioner Hutcheson asked about Harris Services. Judge Jeff Lowe pointed out that he cancelled the Harris Services contract discussed recently in board meetings and returned \$4,000 to the County. He also mentioned that his court had \$18,000.00 more in revenue than had been budgeted.

*Fire Department*

Don Seabolt spoke on behalf of Chief Eggert who was out on a fire call. Overages concerned unexpected training and overtime paid due to illness and vacations, and vacation buy back. The Finance Director said they are going to budget for absent employees in the future. The department wants to continue their efforts to implement "Kelly days" temp or part-time workers. The County Manager said we should have a better picture of this in 2007. Don Seabolt pointed out that public safety cannot "work short" when people are out due to illness, training, or vacation. He said covering these expenses had been a concern following the second cut made in the 2006 budget.

Allison Martin said other overages were the ambulance write-off by her department and the inventory on ambulances. The auditor changed how they did the inventory on ambulance items. Diesel fuel was much more expensive than what had been budgeted and is expected to be higher still this year. Fire Department revenue was \$40,000 higher than budgeted.

*Animal Shelter*

Allison Martin explained that the salary overage was caused by a miscommunication when Mary Flowers approved a pay increase for one of her employees. There is now a form that must be filled out so that there is no confusion. Mary pointed out the 25% increase in the number of animals received in 2006 over 2005. With this increase, however, revenues are up. Mary said she is concerned about water this year since the water rate was increased.

*Public Works Administration*

The consultant salary was not budgeted nor was health insurance. Charles Trammel had not signed up for health insurance but the current Public Works Director did.

*Rainbow House*

The board voted to give money to Rainbow House but this was not reflected in the budget. They also went over budget on electricity.

*Senior Center*

Overages at the Senior Center occurred due to an overlap when outgoing Senior Center Director Rhonda Bailey and incoming Joan Smith were both working. There was also an employee who was hired who signed up for health insurance, which was not budgeted. A Legacy Link issue from a previous year not caught by auditors is being charged off in 2006. There was an increase in the volume of meals through Legacy Link that had not been budgeted.

Joan Smith will be leaving as Director of the Senior Center due to her health.

*Park & Recreation*

Funds were allocated for a prison detail to do maintenance but before the contract was approved the previous Park & Recreation Director spent the funds. This led to a discussion of whether the contract signed for prison details is being fulfilled.



*Community Center*

Overages occurred on utilities but revenue was up due to much more rental. Commissioner Stowers pointed out that when big tournaments are scheduled that extra expenses should be anticipated. The after-school program earned about \$4,000.00 in 2006.

*Probate Court*

Judge Chastain was not present. He was over budget by a very small amount due to a pension issue.

The County Manager pointed out that a half million dollars will be added to the general fund from the 2006 budget. A draft of the audit may be available Friday, March 9, 2007 from the auditors.

***Motion:** Commissioner Raber made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2006 budget. Clarence Stowers seconded the motion. Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson, Stowers and Grindle voted to approve. Motion carried.*

Commissioner Hutcheson said she had previously voted against the amendment to make a statement while Clarence Stowers said he thinks the budget should be amended before the money is spent. Commissioner Raber said he found going through the budget in this manner had been useful because it would enable the commissioners to answer questions from the public.

Road Acceptance Procedures Policy

The Planning Director offered detailed proposals for the board to consider. Commissioner Hutcheson said her understanding is that when this policy is approved it will apply from the approval date going forward. Those roads currently under construction would fall under the old system. There was a great deal of discussion concerning what kind of inspection and testing is adequate or preferred in order to ensure that roads being accepted will not become a burden on the County.

It is the opinion of Public Works Director Eddy Harris that we should require the same condition of roads at acceptance as we do would if the County hired a contractor to build a road for the County. The County Attorney is recommending that we accept the proposal that allows road acceptance at the time the final plat is approved. Public Works Consultant Charles Trammel is recommending against that proposal.

***Motion:** Commissioner Raber made a motion to accept the procedure for road acceptance at the time final plat is approved with additions as discussed in the meeting. The motion failed for lack of a second.*

The County Manager and Public Works Director both stated that they do not object to road acceptance at the time final plat is approved. Commissioner Hutcheson said that she is still concerned that we will accept a bad road. Commissioner Stowers expressed concern that the road acceptance at time of final plat option will make the Planning Director's workload miserable and that he will quit.

***Motion:** Commissioner Raber made a motion to accept the procedure for road acceptance at the time final plat is approved with additions as discussed in the meeting. Chairman Gooch seconded the motion. Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson and Grindle voted for the motion. Commissioner Stowers was opposed. Motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

Construction Management At Risk

Chairman Gooch said a decision is needed quickly on whether this is the approach the board desires for the judicial center. Commissioner Stowers explained the new laws regarding Construction Management at Risk.

***Motion:** Commissioner Stowers moved to approve use of construction management at risk on the building of the courthouse as recommended by the courthouse committee. Commissioner Raber seconded the motion, which was approved by all district commissioners. Motion carried.*



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Board of Commissioners' Retreat

The commissioners discussed what they thought was important to include on the agenda for the March 12, 2006 Board Retreat.

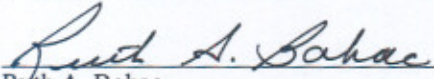
**ADJOURN**

*Motion: Commissioner Stowers moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. John Raber seconded the motion. District Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson, Stowers and Grindle approved the motion. Motion carried.*

3-15-2007  
Date

  
Stephen W. Gooch, Chairman  
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

  
Ruth A. Bohac  
Clerk, Lumpkin County